Hospital, Long Beach, California, were particularly lucid, and presented clearly the basis for the present concept of the hypothalamic control of anterior pituitary function.

Several papers dealt with the metabolism of thyroid hormone by peripheral tissues. The report by Dr. O. Thibault, from the University of Paris, was an excellent presentation of both original work and the work of others indicating that peripheral tissues can convert the thyroid hormones, thyroxine (T4), and tri-iodothyronine (T3) into their acetic acid derivatives, tetraiodothyroacetic acid (TETRAC) and triiodothyroacetic acid (TRIAC) which may be the active forms of the hormones at the cellular level. Clinical studies with TRIAC presented by Dr. W. R. Trotter from University College Hospital Medical School, London, suggest that orally administered TRIAC may have a more immediate effect on lowering blood cholesterol than it does on raising the BMR. This property, if substantiated, may have considerable clinical application in problems of hypercholesterolemia.

The discussions following each paper were, on the whole, disappointing. One had the feeling that these were carefully edited so that all controversy was eliminated. A few of the discussors contributed valuable additional data and critical comment, but for the most part, the discussions were rather sterile.

In general this is a "progress report" of work on thyroid physiology now in progress. From this symposium one can gain a glimpse of the nature and direction of present research on the control and function of the thyroid gland.

FRANCIS S. GREENSPAN, M.D.

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THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE—For Body Alignment and Function—Marian Williams, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, School of Medicine, Stanford University, and Catherine Worthington, Ph.D., Director of Professional Education, The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1957. 127 pages, $3.50.

This is a manual developed by the authors for use by physical therapy students. Three major topics are covered: an analysis of body alignment, the rationale and description of exercises for various areas of the body, and a diagrammatic anatomical review of the major muscles of the body and their kinesiology.

It is well illustrated by line drawings showing pictorially the accompanying subject matter so that physicians and others unaccustomed to reading exercise instructions can easily follow the text. A rather thorough description is given of the various maneuvers by which the patient can mobilize the various segments of his body and strengthen muscles by calisthenics designed to use gravity as a resistance mechanism. Such exercises are usually taught as a home program to patients.

This book is useful mainly for physical therapists and students in corrective physical education though it warrants a perusal by orthopedists, physiatrists, and other physicians handling cases with musculoskeletal problems.

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MAY'S MANUAL OF THE DISEASES OF THE EYE—For Students and General Practitioners—Twenty-second Edition—Revised and Edited by Charles A. Perera, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor; College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1957. 518 pages, $6.00.

This book has long been the eye Bible of the beginner in ophthalmology, but especially of the medical student and the general practitioner.

In the present revision, some of the obsolete material has been deleted, and it now includes the presently accepted concepts of eye diseases. It also describes the place of the corticosteroids in ophthalmology and contains an evaluation of the antibiotics. The picture of retrolental fibroplasia and allied conditions are discussed in light of our recent knowledge.

It is particularly noteworthy that Dr. Perera, in keeping the book up-to-date with the various editions, has not destroyed the interesting, practical and attractive original format.

The printing, illustrations and paper are excellent.

The book, which has gone through 22 American editions, has been translated into nine languages and is still the most important reference on ophthalmology of the medical student and general practitioner.

FREDERICK C. CORDES, M.D.

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ABSTRACTS OF SOVIET MEDICINE—Part A—Basic Medical Sciences, Vol. 1, 1957, No. 1. Part B—Clinical Medicine, Vol. 1, 1957, No. 1. Excerpta Medica Foundation, New York Academy of Medicine Building, 2 East 103 Street, New York 29, N. Y. Part A, $15.00; Part B, $15.00; Combined subscription, Part A and B, $25.00.

A grant of the National Institutes of Health, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to the Excerpta Medica Foundation has made possible the publication of Abstracts of Soviet Medicine in two parts: Basic Medical Sciences and Clinical Medicine, of which Volume I, No. 1 of each part have been published. Thus a large body of medical and scientific literature will be brought to the attention of those who read English but not Russian. The format is identical with that of the other divisions of Excerpta Medica. The material is drawn from the Medicinskij Referativnij Zhurnal (Soviet Medical Abstracting Journal) and from abstracts prepared under the supervision of a group chosen from the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow. The titles of all articles abstracted are translated into English and the abstracts are in English. The whole material is translated, edited, supervised and indexed by Excerpta Medica's editorial board in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The Foreword to the first number of each part states that "the primary object of this far-reaching project is to assist in the creation of the final essential link in the interchange of medical information on a truly global basis."

CLINTON H. THIENES, M.D.

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THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAM—Its Interpretation and Clinical Application—Second Edition, Revised—Louis H. Sigler, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.C.C.P., F.A.C.C., Attending Cardiologist and Chief of Cardia Clinics, Coney Island Hospital, etc., Grune & Stratton, New York, 1957. 312 pages, $8.75.

This book is an elementary account of electrocardiography which discusses in a reasonably competent manner most of the patterns necessary for interpretation. This new second edition has very little up-to-date material, and most of the bibliographies at the end of each chapter have references prior to 1945. The chapter on ventricular hypertrophy is an exception.

There is an inadequate discussion on electrocardiographic changes due to imbalance. The section on congenital heart disease is extremely meager with no bibliography despite the fact that it is in this area that many advances have been made.

The section on premature contractions is quite good.

In general, the reviewer finds little evidence that new material is included in the second edition. In view of the excellent, up-to-date books on electrocardiography now available, the reviewer sees no outstanding distinguishing features of this book.